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NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

FOR FEBRUARY 1985

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Office of the
State Climatologist

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SYNOPSIS

For the third consecutive month temperatures were below normal over Nevada, in what has been one of the coldest winters in many years, especially in the northern 1/3 of the State. For example, Winnemucca set a new record low for February (-28°), in a record that began in 1870!

Precipitation was also below normal, except in isolated locations in the center of Nevada and in the Far West, where it was slightly above normal. In the critical water producing areas of the Sierra Nevada, precipitation was only a little below normal, thanks to a very strong storm system early in the month that produced most of the month's total. For example, 2.91" of Incline's monthly total of 3.58" fell in one 24 hour period the 7th-8th. The 38" of snow that fell there was a record Nevada 24 hour total, breaking the old mark of 36" that occurred at Daggett Pass in February 1969.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures during February were below normal over the entire State, especially in the northern 1/3 of Nevada, where Battle Mountain and Winnemucca averaged 9.9° and 8.5° colder than normal, respectively. With January temperatures 10.7° below normal at Winnemucca and 11.5° below normal at Battle Mountain, and December temperatures averaging -4.0° at Winnemucca and -8.1° colder than normal at Battle Mountain, coupled with higher costs of fuel today than several years ago, residents are probably spending more than ever in order to keep their homes comfortable.

Although no State records were set for extreme cold, Winnemucca did break the old February low of -22°, set there in 1890, recording a -28° on the 4th. With a 115 year long record being broken by 6 degrees, this is a significant occurrence. It was also -27° at Dufurrena near the Oregon border, -25° at Battle Mountain and Denio (the record February low at Battle Mountain is -31°, set in 1933), and -23° at Owyhee, among those weather stations where data is available at this early date. The +3° reading at Incline was also a new low for the month in that communities short 16 year climate record. Other locations where temperatures averaged 4 degrees or more below normal were Fallon (-5.2°), Caliente (-5.0°), Ely (-4.4°), and Eiko (-4.2°), showing the widespread nature of the cold.

On the "warm side" of the scale, temperatures averaged less than 2° below normal at Glenbrook (-0.5°), Reno (-0.4°), Austin (-1.3°) and Beatty (-1.5°). Maximum temperatures reached into the 70's in Southern Nevada, with the State's high of 80° recorded at Laughlin on the 15th.

MAR 20 1985

Dist. Economic
Development

Below normal temperatures statewide brought about unusually high heating requirements, especially in the Northern 1/2 of the State, where over 1000 heating degree day units were recorded at some locations (HI = 1129 at Ely). In the South less than 500 was the rule at most locations (LO = 339 at Laughlin).

PRECIPITATION

With the exception of Austin, (130% of normal), Winnemucca (100%), and Virginia City (108%), preliminary data indicates that Nevada precipitation was below normal during February. In fact, in parts of Southern Nevada it was less than 10% of normal (Beatty 8N 3% and Las Vegas 5%). At Laughlin no precipitation occurred.

The wettest region of Nevada during February was the Lake Tahoe Basin, where Incline recorded 3.58", very near the 3.61" normal, Glenbrook had 2.24" also near the 2.29" normal, and Daggett Pass 1.93". Geiger Summit (6900') between Reno and Virginia City had 1.91", Virginia Foothills, not far from Geiger Summit, 1.59", Mount Rose Bowl, between Reno and Lake Tahoe 1.60", and Zephyr Cove, on Tahoe's East Shore, 1.38".

The most significant precipitation event this month was the 38" of snowfall that occurred in a 24 hour period at Incline February 7th-8th, breaking the Nevada record for any month (36") set at Daggett Pass in February 1969. Daggett Pass with 25" in the early February 1985 storm, Glenbrook 23", and Virginia City 17", for 24 hours, were not too far behind. In the Reno-Tahoe area several thousand people were without electric power and many highways were closed during this severe winter storm.

The greatest recorded snow depth in Nevada at the end of February was 92" at the 9200 foot Robinson Lake snow course in the Ruby Mountains near Elko. This is a little above normal for this time of year.

SUNSHINE AND WIND

Sunshine averaged above normal over most of Nevada during February, with Reno near normal (67%, average = 68%) and Las Vegas only a little above normal (83%, average = 81%), while Ely (78%, average = 67%) and Winnemucca (62%, average = 51%), enjoyed well above the normal hours of sunshine.

Wind speeds were near normal statewide, with the maximum gust of near 70 mph recorded atop 9700 foot Slide Mountain near Reno during the big storm of early February. Gusts between 50 and 55 mph were also recorded in southwest Reno during this event.

NOTE

If you have not done so, please send in your subscriptions to this Monthly Weather Summary. As noted in the January issue, with few exceptions, future mailings will be limited to subscribers, as there are no other funds to continue publication. Thank you very much.

TO: Office of the State Climatologist, Mackay Science Hall, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557

Enclosed is \$10 for one year's subscription (March 1985-February 1986) to the Nevada Climate Summary

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

Please make checks payable to: UNR Foundation for State Climatology Fund.

John W. James
State Climatologist for Nevada

ADDENDUM: Additional Jan. 1985 data is now available, indicating that Nevada's lowest temperature during that month was -27°, recorded at Wildhorse Reservoir, south of Owyhee.

FEBRUARY 1985

PRELIMINARY NEVADA CLIMATE DATA

HEATING
DEGREE
DAYS

GR.

LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGHEST	LOWEST	HEATING DEGREE DAYS	DEPART	PRECIP	DEPART	GR. 24 HR	SNOWFALL
(Base=65°)													
<u>Northwest</u>													
Carson City **	4650'	49.6	20.6	35.1	-2.9	15th 67	5th 6	838	+72	.98	-.50	8th .95	T
Daggett Pass	7380	42.0	21.0	31.5	-	14th 56	2nd 3	-	-	1.93	-	8th 1.00	35
Denio	4185	43.2	18.5	30.8	-	28th* 57	4th -25	-	-	1.02	-	20th .40	17
Dufurrena	4800	-	-	-	-	28th 57	4th -27	-	-	.41	-	1st .20	-
Fallon NAS	3935	51.8	21.7	34.4	-5.2	15th 70	5th 10	797	-	.09	-.41	8th .06	T
Glenbrook	6350	45.8	21.8	33.8	-0.5	16th 58	1st 4	896	+36	2.24	-.05	8th 1.74	29
Incline	6525	41.7	20.8	31.2	-1.8	19th 54	1st 3	944	-	3.58	-.03	8th 2.91	45
Lovelock	3975	45.3	18.8	32.0	-4.7	24th 59	5th -10	898	+83	.24	-.36	2nd .23	3
Reno WSFO AP	4405	50.8	23.1	37.0	-0.4	15th 66	5th 11	781	+8	.68	-.27	8th .66	1
Reno UNR	4550	47.8	24.9	36.3	-	24th* 64	5th* 10	-	-	.56	-	8th .54	T
Virginia City	6340	42.5	23.2	32.8	-2.7	15th 60	4th 6	900	+74	1.29	+ .10	7th .73	21
Winnemucca WSFO AP	4295	42.1	12.3	27.2	-8.5	24th 56	4th -28	1049	+229	.68	+ .01	19th .21	7
Yerington	4375	50.2	20.5	35.3	-2.7	19th 68	5th 7	829	+85	.13	-.44	4th .12	2
<u>Northeast</u>													
Austin	6605	42.1	17.5	29.8	-1.3	15th* 57	4th -7	986	+70	1.46	+ .34	2nd .42	18
Battle Mountain AP	4340	38.5	11.6	25.0	-9.9	28th 53	6th -25	1095	+252	.12	-.46	2nd .08	1

February 1985 (Continued)

LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGHEST	LOWEST	HEATING DEGREE DAYS			DEPART	24HR	SNOWFALL
								DAYS	PRECIP	PRECIP			
								(Base=65°)					
Elko	5075	39.5	14.1	26.8	-4.2	19th 52	4th -14	1060	+108	.15	- .66	11th .04	2
Ely	6260	40.1	8.7	24.4	-4.4	15th 57	5th -16	1129	+115	.42	- .26	9th .30	5½
<u>Central</u>													
Caliente	4400	48.0	19.1	33.6	-5.0	15th 62	10th -2	880	+141	.35	- .43	9th .23	-
Hawthorne	4215	51.4	23.6	37.5	-2.3	24th* 65	5th 4	769	-31	.30	- .13	2nd .30	T
Tonopah AP	5425	46.6	19.9	33.2	-2.7	24th* 61	5th -4	889	+74	.14	- .33	2nd .13	2
<u>Southern</u>													
Beatty 8N	3550	57.2	30.7	44.0	-1.5	16th 75	6th* 17	-	-	.02	- .74	3rd .02	1
Boulder City	2525	58.5	38.5	48.5	-3.1	18th 70	2nd 20	468	+86	.12	- .45	4th .08	T
Desert Rock	3300	57.1	32.8	44.9	-2.4	16th 73	1st 14	554	+63	.02	-	9th .02	T
Las Vegas	2160	59.1	35.6	47.4	-2.7	16th 71	1st 18	487	+70	.02	- .44	20th .01	T
Laughlin	550	67.1	39.2	53.2	-	15th 80	8th* 29	334	-	0	-	0	0
Searchlight	3540	-	-	-	-	15th 70	1st 16	-	-	.28	- .45	3rd .28	-

*Latest of more than one occurrence

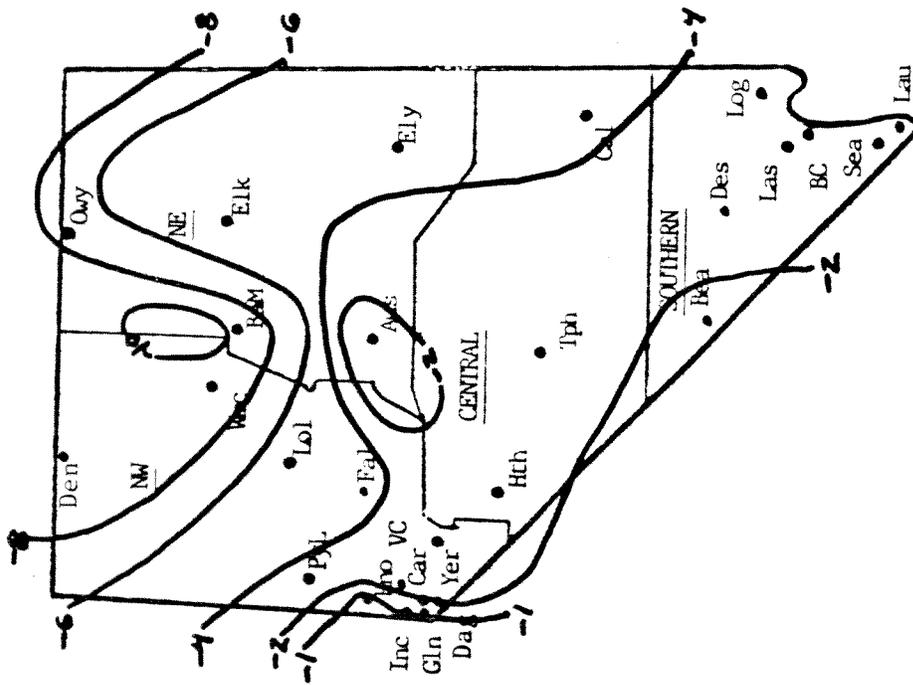
**Thanks very much to the weather observers whose readings make understanding Nevada's weather possible. The responsible person (or office) is listed on page 6.

NEVADA WEATHER OBSERVERS

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>
<u>Northwest</u>	
Carson City Daggett Pass	Carson City Fire Department Kingsbury Fire Station, Douglas County Fire Protection District Frances Prewitt
Denio Dufurrena Fallon NAS Glenbrook	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Naval Oceanography Command Glenbrook Fire Station, Douglas County Fire Protection District Ed Coppin
Incline Reno AP Reno UNR Virginia City Winnemucca Yerington	National Weather Service University of Nevada-Reno, Geography Department Virginia City Fire Department National Weather Service Lyon County Sheriff
<u>Northeast</u>	
Austin Battle Mountain Elko Ely	Edna Cooley Juanita Swinea FAA FSS National Weather Service
<u>Central</u>	
Caliente Hawthorne Tonopah AP	U.S. Soil Conservation Service Hawthorne Municipal Airport FAA FSS
<u>Southern</u>	
Beatty 8N Boulder City Desert Rock Las Vegas Laughlin Searchlight	Effie Spicer U.S. Bureau of Reclamation National Weather Service National Weather Services Clark County Fire Department Nevada Division of Highways
<u>Others That Contribute Data</u>	
Manhattan Carver's Station Winnemucca (downtown)	Euphemia Parker Reeve Duhme Gary Rinaudo

DEPARTURE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE
FROM NORMAL (F°)

FEBRUARY 1985



PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

FEBRUARY 1985

